



Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

DHR Board
Tuesday, May 13, 2014
9 a.m.
Lucas State Office Building, Room 201, 321 E. 12th St., Des Moines, IA

Members Present: Floyd Winter, Sherri Soich, Ben Jung, Anna Brown, Theresa Legg, Sal Alaniz, Clair Rudison, Karen Mackey*, San Wong (ex-officio) (*indicates member joined by phone)
Members Absent: Michelle Ray-Michalec, Jason Glass, Beth Coonan, Rep. Thede (ex-officio), Sen. Hart (ex-officio)
Guests: David Legg; Heidi Smith, Deputy Director; Mary Bowser, budget analyst; Paul Stageberg, CJJP Administrator; Bill Brand, DCAA Administrator; Danielle Plogmann, staff

Call to order: In absence of a chair, Director Wong called meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Introductions: New members Sal Alaniz (Commission on Latino Affairs), Clair Rudison (Commission on Status of African Americans). Other new members not in attendance: Beth Coonan (Commission on the Status of Women), Michelle Ray-Michalec (Commission of Persons with Disabilities).

Former board chair Jill Olsen's term expired, so first order of business was to elect a chair.

Motion: Soich moved to nominate Floyd Winter as chair.

Second: Jung seconded.

Discussion: Winter is entering second term on board, feels the board is making progress and would serve as chair if the board desires.

Vote: Yes – Legg, Brown, Jung, Alaniz, Soich, Mackey. Abstain – Winter, Rudison. Motion carries with 6 votes.

Chair Winter presided over remaining agenda.

Motion: Rudison moved to approve the February 18, 2014 meeting minutes.

Second: Jung seconded.

Discussion: Rudison asked for update on legislation relating to Africans and African American Commission. Wong updated that the legislation did not pass, but she had spoken with Rep. Gaines and believes Gaines' goal of including 1st generations Africans in the commission is possible.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Director Wong presented the department's report, noting she and Division of Community Action Agencies Administrator Bill Brand would need to step out for a 10 a.m. conference call organized by the Midwest Governor's Association. Wong and Brand are taking part in a task force trying to put solutions in place related to propane, following the past winter's propane crisis. Wong provided a legislative update. Most bills impacting DHR are pending review by the governor. The legislature did not provide DHR the governor's recommended small budget increase to cover increased salary and administrative costs, instead passing a status quo budget. CJJP is in a separate budget subcommittee, which also passed funding status quo from the current fiscal year. Other funding still before the governor includes an additional \$150,000 to DHS, which would be administered by DHR for FADSS. There is also \$2 million appropriated for this fiscal year for LIHEAP. Wong said she would update the board after the governor takes action on all these bills. Wong noted the department held an orientation for new board and commission members last Friday, May 9. Staff, the Governor's Director of Boards and Commissions and the department's Assistant Attorney General were all present. Open meetings and open records rules were covered, as transparency and accountability are key when serving in a governmental capacity. The department's new fiscal year begins July 1. Budget Analyst Mary Bowser is beginning to prepare.

Board activities update: For the benefit of new members, Director Wong reviewed the outcomes from strategic planning completed in 2012, including the elevator speech and board priorities.

New members' selection of work groups. New members joined work groups, which were previously formed to accomplish the board's action plan. Members agreed to convene their work groups by phone prior to the September board meeting.

Commission Updates:

Commission of Latino Affairs (Alaniz) – The commission has two new commissioners just beginning their terms. The commission will soon set its meetings for the upcoming fiscal year. Staff which supports the commission has been doing outreach to other governmental agencies, as well as working on the Latina Leadership Initiative.

Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (Jung) – May is Asian Pacific Heritage Month, and a big celebration will take place May 31 just east of the Lucas Building. API will meet next week. Jung recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in a White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, where he made new connections with people from other regions of the country. The commission is working to balance the diverse needs of a very new community versus more established communities.

Commission on Community Action Agencies (Brown) – Referenced earlier discussion among board members regarding LIHEAP and the propane crisis. The commission will meet in July at the Iowa Community Action Association's training conference.

Deaf Services Commission (Legg) – The commission met May 3 and discussed establishing a website, interpreting contracts and its successful Deaf Capitol Day.

Commission on the Status of African Americans (Rudison) – There will be a banquet on June 5 at the Holiday Inn for the Juneteenth observation. Rudison is speaking with individuals from the community regarding making mental health services more available. He also noted a woman named Nancy from Kenya recently attended a commission meeting, wanting the commission to advocate for African communities. Rudison said the commission is an advocate and is ready to receive issues affecting those African populations. He noted refugees entering the Des Moines area. Rudison is trying to connect those individuals with places like Lutheran Services for some language training. Wong noted that several commissions are focusing on needs of refugees and first-generation immigrants, with others being Latino Affairs and Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Commission of Native American Affairs (Mackey) – Lack of Internet presence continues to be a concern for the commission. The commission continues working to get a display in the Capitol regarding Native American nations with a presence in Iowa. Another commission priority is Native American prisoner spiritual rights.

Winter asked if staff would like to add to their written reports. Division of Community Advocacy and Services Administrator Heidi Smith noted the recent Latina Leadership Graduation. The pilot program is drawing statewide interest. Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Administrator Paul Stageberg said their primary activity involves the Juvenile Justice Reform Project. The project tries to help realign services to ensure they're consistent with kids' needs. Stageberg hopes there will be a funding mechanism to continue the program after a three-year grant ends in September 2015.

Public comment: None

Next meetings: Members agreed to September 5 and October 17. Danielle Plogmann, staff, will check with members who could not attend today.

Rudison moved to adjourn. Jung seconded. Winter adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Danielle Plogmann, staff.